



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



The First Epistle of St. Paul to the Thessalonians

Chapter 3

Bishop Youssef



Introduction

- In chapter two, St. Paul explained how his longing to them and how he tried to visit them more than once but Satan hindered him
- In this chapter St. Paul clarified to them why He sent Timothy
- Also he shared with them Timothy's report and how it brought joy to his heart
- He concluded the chapter by praying for himself and for them too



Timothy's Visit (3:1-5)

- St. Paul could not endure knowing that his children are under persecution without supporting them
- He wanted to visit them by himself but could not
- He sent Timothy to know their faith and also to support them
- This means that he would be left alone in Athens without a brother, a minister of God, and fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ



Timothy's Visit (3:1-5)

- This reflects St. Paul's humbleness and love for both Timothy and the Thessalonians
- St. Paul is concerned about their faith, so if the doctrine of "once saved, always saved" is true, why St. Paul is concerned here!
- Suffering may shaken our faith
- Suffering can be a good opportunity for Satan to tempt us
- It can make the labor of the servants be in vain



Timothy's Visit (3:1-5)

- So the church should prepare her children for suffering
- Also we should expect sufferings
- And we need to be concerned about one another and to support one another during the time of afflictions
- The church also should establish and encourage her children during the time of sufferings
- See St. Paul's heart how he could not endure it



Timothy's Report (3:6-11)

- Timothy's report included:
 - ❖ Their love and faith
 - ❖ Good remembrance of St. Paul
 - ❖ Their desire to see him as he desires to see them
- St. Paul's reaction to the report:
 - ❖ Was comforted and joyful in his affliction
 - ❖ He felt alive because of their steadfastness



Timothy's Report (3:6-11)

- ❖ Poured himself in thanksgiving on their behalf before God (he did not give credit to himself)
- ❖ Prayed without ceasing and exceedingly to see them and perfect what is lacking in their faith
- May be St. Paul did not explain to them before the Christian perspective of death and after death, so he will address this in chapter 4
- Satan hindered him, but God would direct his way to them



St. Paul's Prayer (3:12-13)

- He is praying for their growth
- This cannot be done without God
- The main area for growth is love
- Love to one another and also to all
- They have the example of St. Paul's love for them
- There is always a room for increasing and abounding
- Love is needed especially during hardships



St. Paul's Prayer (3:12-13)

- It is very important that when we are judged by God in last day in the second coming of the Lord to be blameless and in holiness
- When we grow in love, our hearts will be established blameless in holiness
- The whole bible can be summarized in one word "love"
- The Lord will come with his saints from the angels and the humans



Conclusion

- Why did St. Paul send Timothy?
- What can happen to the believers because of sufferings?
- What is the church role regarding suffering?
- How can it become a source of joy and comfort to our spiritual fathers?
- For what did St. Paul pray concerning the Thessalonians?
- What do we need to be blameless in the last day?